

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

Sub A1 1. A method for searching a plurality of media clips, comprising, in response to a user selecting a media clip and a search criteria, retrieving all clips in a clip database that match the search criteria for the selected media clip.

Sub A1 2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising presenting a user with all of the retrieved clips.

3. The method of Claim 2, further comprising, in response to a user selecting one of the retrieved clips and the user selecting a search criteria for the newly selected clip, retrieving all clips in the clip database that match the search criteria for the newly selected media clip.

4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising presenting a plurality of media clips available for selection to a user.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the media clips are based on a media type.

Sub B2 6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the search criteria is artistic style.

Sub B2 7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the search criteria is color.

Sub B2 8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the search criteria is shape.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the search criteria is both color and shape.

Sub B2 10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the search criteria is a keyword.

11. The method of Claim 10 wherein the keyword is selected from a list of keywords.

Sub C2 12. The method of Claim 10 wherein the keyword designates the format of the clip.

SUB A2 13. The method of Claim 1, wherein the search criteria is all of the keywords associated with the selected clip.

14. The method of Claim 1, wherein said retrieving all clips in a clip database that match the search criteria for the selected media clip, applies only to clips having a media type that matches the media type of the selected media clip.

15. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in any one of Claims 1-14.

SUB A3 16. A method for providing a user interface for a visual thesaurus, comprising, in response to a user selecting a media clip, displaying to the user an option for finding clips similar to the selected clip.

17. The method of Claim 16, wherein the user interface comprises:

- (a) a graphical indication of the selected clip; and
- (b) a button for the option for finding similar clips to the selected clip.

SUB A4 18. The method of Claim 16, further comprising, in response to a user selecting the option for finding similar clips, displaying means for the user to select search criteria for finding similar clips.

19. The method of Claim 18, wherein means for the user to select search criteria for finding similar clips is a fly-out window.

20. The method of Claim 16, further comprising displaying to the user an option for inserting the selected clip into a document.

21. The method of Claim 16, further comprising displaying to the user an option for previewing the selected clip.

22. The method of Claim 16, further comprising displaying to the user an option to add the clip to one or more categories.

23. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in any one of Claims 16-22.

SUB A5 24. An apparatus for searching a plurality of media clips, comprising:

(a) a processing unit; and
(b) a storage medium coupled to the processing unit, the storage medium storing program code implemented by the processing unit for:
(i) providing an interface for a user to select a media clip;
(ii) providing an interface for the user to select search criteria; and
(iii) in response to the user selecting the media clip and the search criteria, retrieving all clips in a clip database that match the selected search criteria for the selected media clip.

25. The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein the program code further presents a user with all of the retrieved clips.

26. The apparatus of Claim 25, wherein the program code further retrieves all clips in the clip database that match a search criteria for a newly selected media clip, in response to a user selecting one of the retrieved clips and the user selecting the search criteria for the newly selected clip.

27. The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein the program code further presents a plurality of media clips available for selection to a user.

28. The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein the media clips are based on a media type.

29. The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein the search criteria is artistic style.

30. The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein the search criteria is color.

31. The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein the search criteria is shape.

32. The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein the search criteria is both color and shape.

33. The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein the search criteria is a keyword.

34. The apparatus of Claim 33 wherein the keyword is selected from a list of keywords.

~~35. The apparatus of Claim 33 wherein the keyword designates the format of the clip.~~

~~SUB A6~~ ~~36. The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein the search criteria is all of the keywords associated with the selected clip.~~

~~SUB A7~~ ~~37. The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein said retrieving all clips in a clip database that match the search criteria for the selected media clip, applies only to clips having a media type that matches the media type of the selected media clip.~~

~~SUB A7~~ ~~38. An apparatus for providing a user interface for a visual thesaurus, comprising:~~

(a) a processing unit; and

(b) a storage medium coupled to the processing unit, the storage medium storing program code implemented by the processing unit for displaying to a user an option for finding clips similar to a selected media clip, in response to the user selecting the media clip.

~~SUB A7~~ ~~39. The apparatus of Claim 38, wherein the user interface comprises:~~

(a) a graphical indication of the selected clip; and

(b) a button for the option for finding similar clips to the selected clip.

~~SUB A8~~ ~~40. The apparatus of Claim 38 wherein the program code displays means for a user to select search criteria for finding similar clips, in response to the user selecting the option for finding similar clips.~~

~~SUB A8~~ ~~41. The apparatus of Claim 40, wherein means for the user to select search criteria for finding similar clips is a fly-out window.~~

42. The apparatus of Claim 38 wherein the program code further displays to the user an option for inserting the selected clip into a document.

43. The apparatus of Claim 38 wherein the program code further displays to the user an option for previewing the selected clip.

44. The apparatus of Claim 38 wherein the program code further displays to the user an option to add the clip to one or more categories.